

1 **Remarks/Arguments:**

2 This Request for Continued Examination is filed in response to the final rejection dated
3 November 29, 2006. Along with the fee for filing this Request (\$395), applicants enclose a
4 request for extension of time for two months to and including April 28, 2007 along with the
5 required fee in the amount of \$225.

6 Claims 1 and 3-4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by the Suen
7 reference. Claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Suen in view
8 of Mirza.

9 The undersigned submits that the ~~Suen reference contains an error at column 2, lines~~
10 ~~28-29~~. This error forms the language upon which the Examiner has relied in making the
11 rejection! A careful reading of the entire Suen patent makes it clear that the evacuation route
12 graphics and messages are ~~both printed on the mylar transparency 3, and no material is~~
13 ~~printed on the photoluminescent back drop 2.~~

14 The language at column 2, lines 13-14, column 2, lines 34-39, and in claim 1 at column
15 3, lines 1-2, all indicate explicitly that the ~~evacuation route graphics 31 and messages 32 are~~
16 ~~both printed on the mylar transparency 3.~~ Fig. 3 of the Suen drawings and the text at column
17 1, lines 49-50, confirm that the text and graphics are printed on mylar transparency 3. As a
18 practical matter, the photoluminescent back drop 2 is provided as a source of "back light"
19 illumination so that the evacuation route graphics 31 and messages 32 may be visible in the
20 dark (col. 1, lines 9-27).

21 The printing error that occurs at column 2, line 29, is that the phrase "of the photo-
22 luminescent back drop 2" is incorrect.

23 Suen teaches the use of a "multi-layer" signage system, but ~~only one layer contains~~
24 ~~graphic and/or alphanumeric information.~~ For this reason, the undersigned submits that the
25 Suen reference should be withdrawn since it only teaches the use of a single layer which
26 includes graphics or alphanumeric information. The present invention teaches the use of two

1 ~~sheets, wherein each of the two sheets (the cover sheet and an opaque sheet) has graphics~~
2 and/or text which are ~~both~~ visible by a single viewer. This combination is simply not taught or
3 suggested by either Suen or Mirza.

4 The undersigned submits that the claims in the application are patentable over the
5 correct reading of Suen either alone or in view of the Mirza reference.

6 The undersigned disagrees strongly that the teachings of Suen and Mirza could have
7 been combined in any fashion. The use of additional signs between the cover sheet and the
8 luminescent backing in Suen would prevent the photoluminescent back drop 2 from effectively
9 providing back lighting of the emergency evacuation route. The back lighting would be
10 blocked by the additional signs or messages.

11 For the above reasons, the undersigned submits that all claims in the application are
12 now allowable. Favorable action is requested.

13

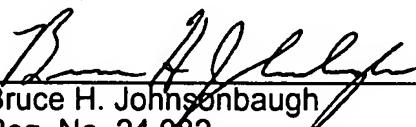
14

Respectfully submitted,

15

16

By


Bruce H. Johnsonbaugh
Reg. No. 24,982
Attorney for Applicants

17

18

19

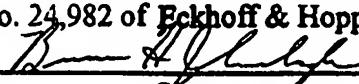
20

21

22 ECKHOFF & HOPPE
101 Montgomery Street, Suite 2800
23 San Francisco, CA 94104
Telephone: 415-391-7160
24 9352.204

I hereby certify that this correspondence is
being deposited with the United States Postal
Service as first class mail in an envelope
addressed to: Mail Stop: RCE (FEE)

Commissions in Patents,
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,
on April 25, 2007
Reg. No. 24,982 of Eckhoff & Hoppe


Signature
4/25/2007

25

26